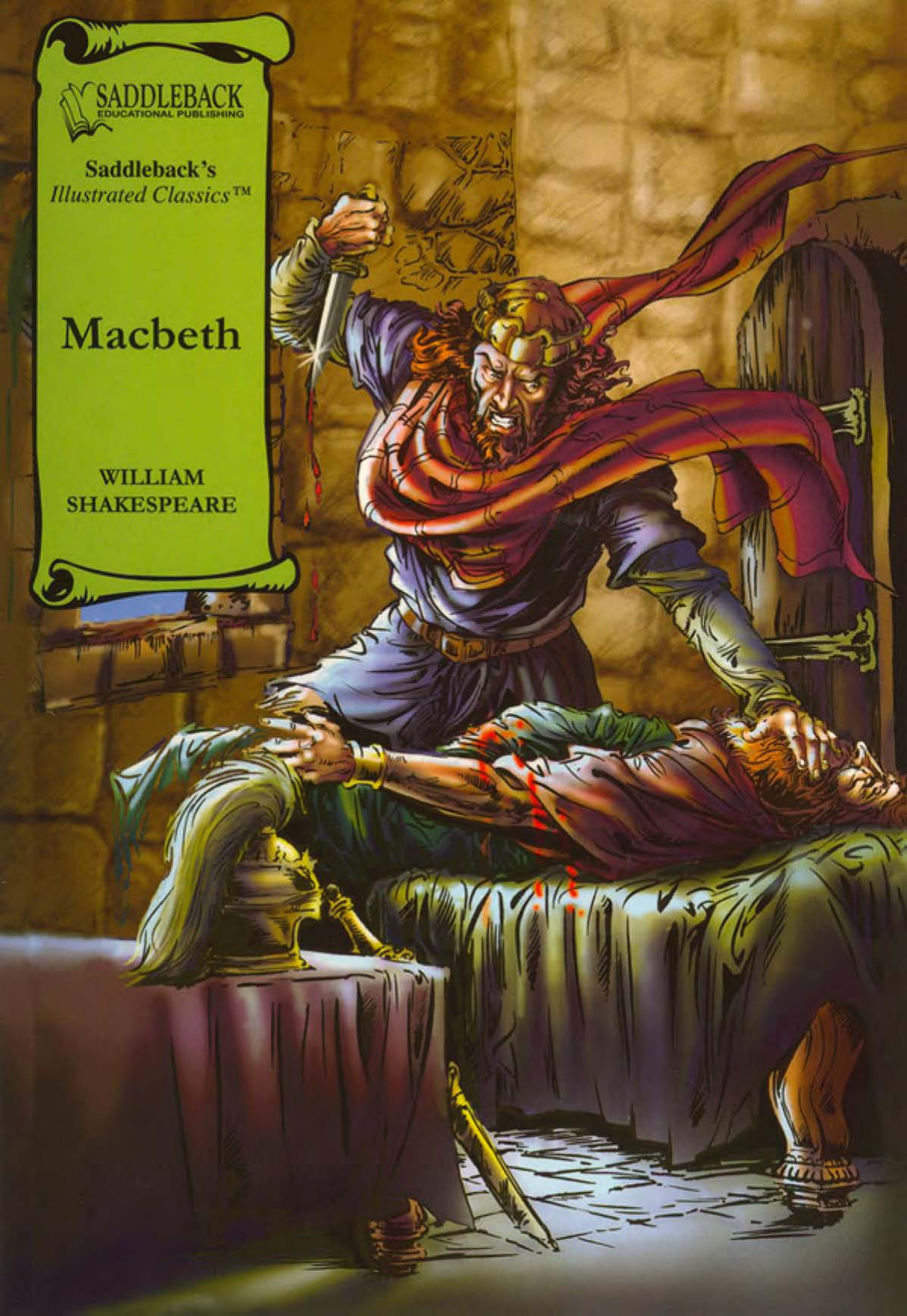
SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING

Saddleback's
Illustrated Classics™

Macbeth

WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE



Macbeth

William Shakespeare

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Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*™

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Welcome to
Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*™

We are proud to welcome you to Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*™. Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*™ was designed specifically for the classroom to introduce readers to many of the great classics in literature. Each text, written and adapted by teachers and researchers, has been edited using the Dale-Chall vocabulary system. In addition, much time and effort has been spent to ensure that these high-interest stories retain all of the excitement, intrigue, and adventure of the original books.

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- Establish a purpose for reading
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Reading is one of the most important skills you will ever learn. It provides the key to all kinds of information. By reading the *Illustrated Classics*™, you will develop confidence and the self-satisfaction that comes from accomplishment—a solid foundation for any reader.

Remember,

"Today's readers are tomorrow's leaders."

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was baptized on April 26, 1564, in Stratford-on-Avon, England, the third child of John Shakespeare, a well-to-do merchant, and Mary Arden, his wife. Young William probably attended the Stratford grammar school, where he learned English, Greek, and a great deal of Latin. Historians aren't sure of the exact date of Shakespeare's birth.

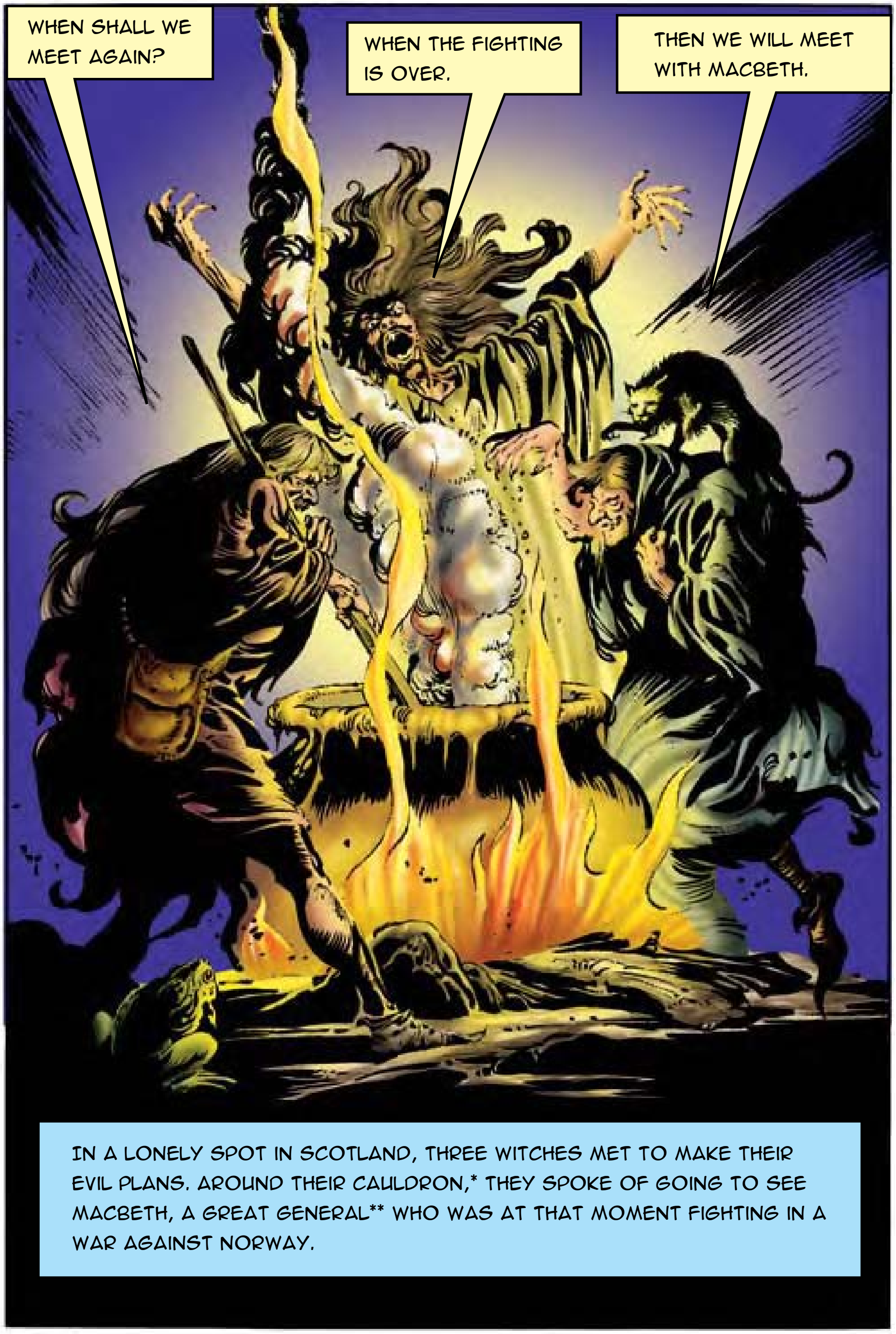
In 1582, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. By 1583 the couple had a daughter, Susanna, and two years later the twins, Hamnet and Judith. Somewhere between 1585 and 1592 Shakespeare went to London, where he became first an actor and then a playwright. His acting company, *The King's Men*, appeared most often in the *Globe* theater, a part of which Shakespeare himself owned.

In all, Shakespeare is believed to have written thirty-seven plays, several nondramatic poems, and a number of sonnets. In 1611 when he left the active life of the theater, he returned to Stratford and became a country gentleman, living in the second-largest house in town. For five years he lived a quiet life. Then, on April 23, 1616, William Shakespeare died and was buried in Trinity Church in Stratford. From his own time to the present, Shakespeare is considered one of the greatest writers of the English-speaking world.

William Shakespeare

Macbeth





* a large kettle

** an army officer of the highest rank







* a man of high rank, often an advisor to the king

** members of a king's court

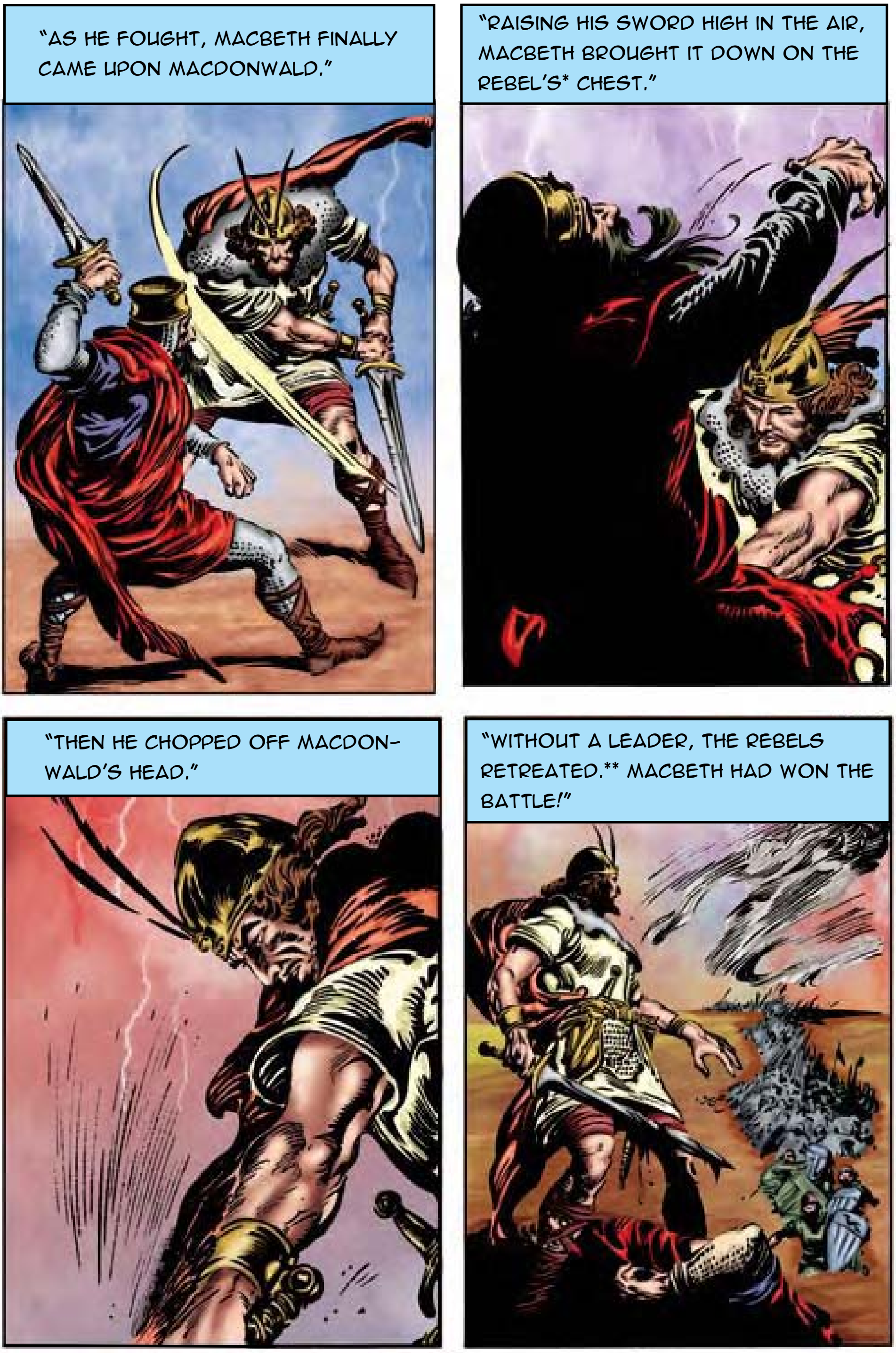


* an officer

** taken away by the enemy

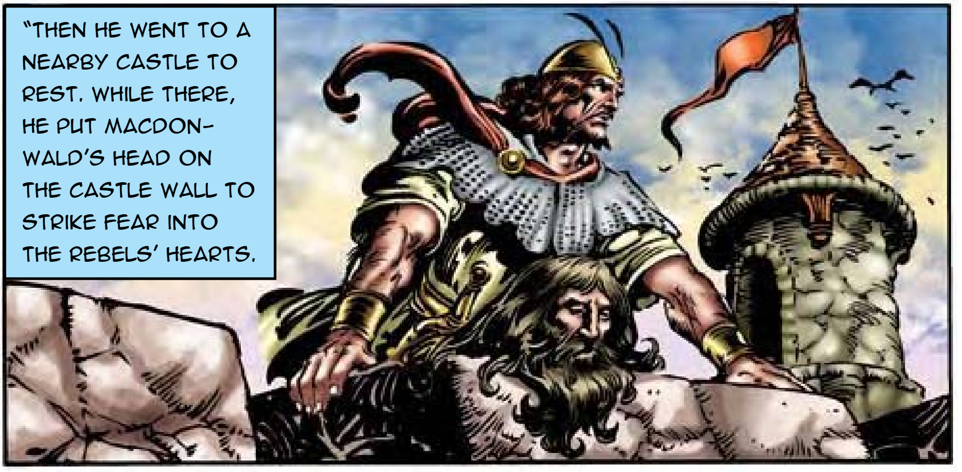


* went forward into battle



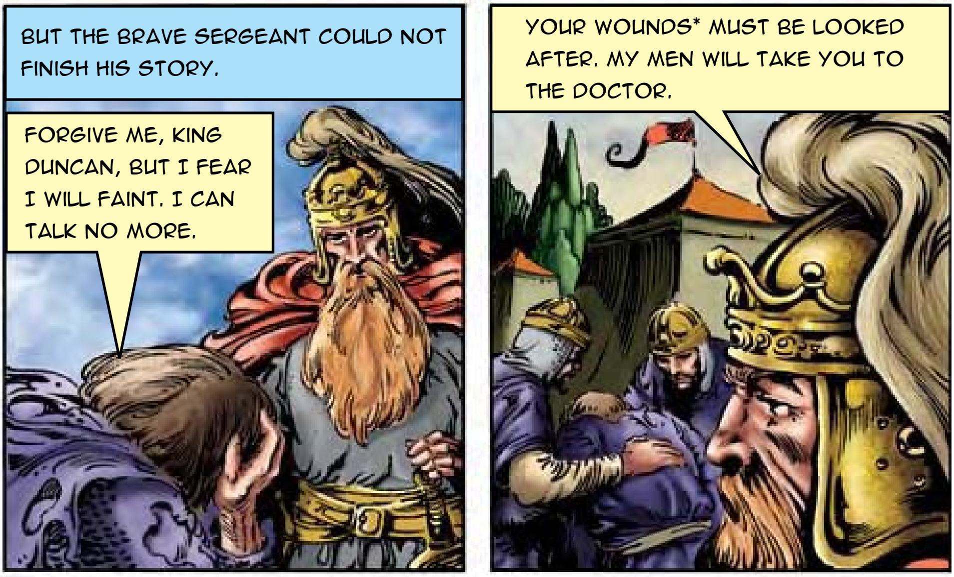
* a person who fights against the leaders of his own country

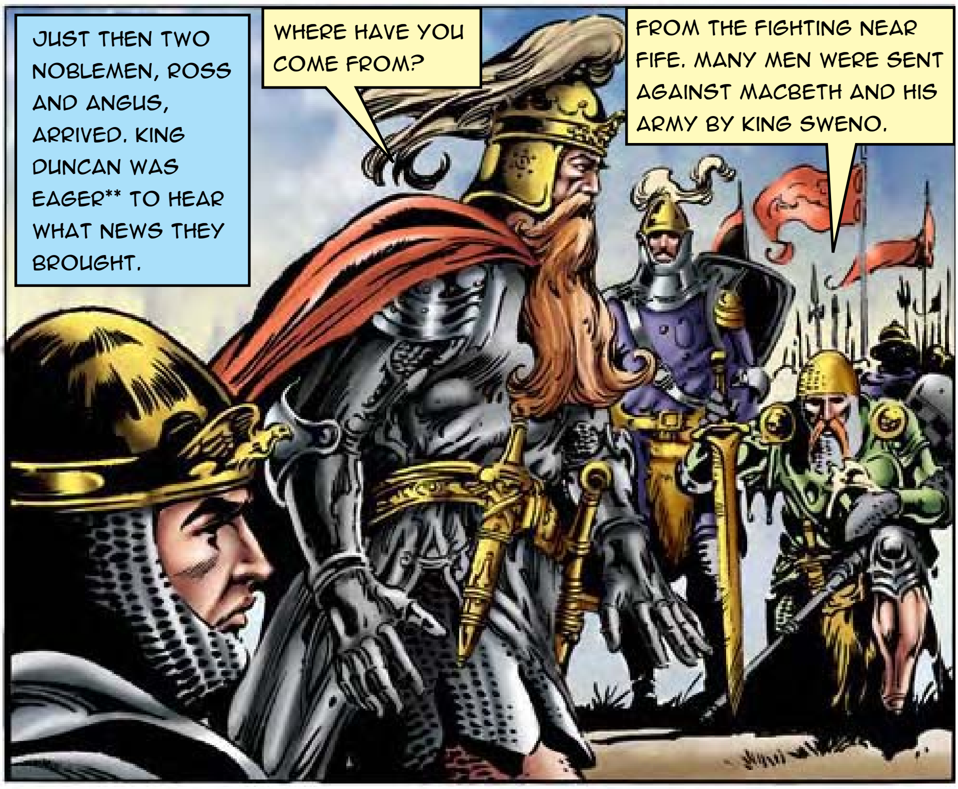
** moved back or away


"Then he went to a nearby castle to rest. While there, he put Macdon-wald's head on the castle wall to strike fear into the rebels' hearts.

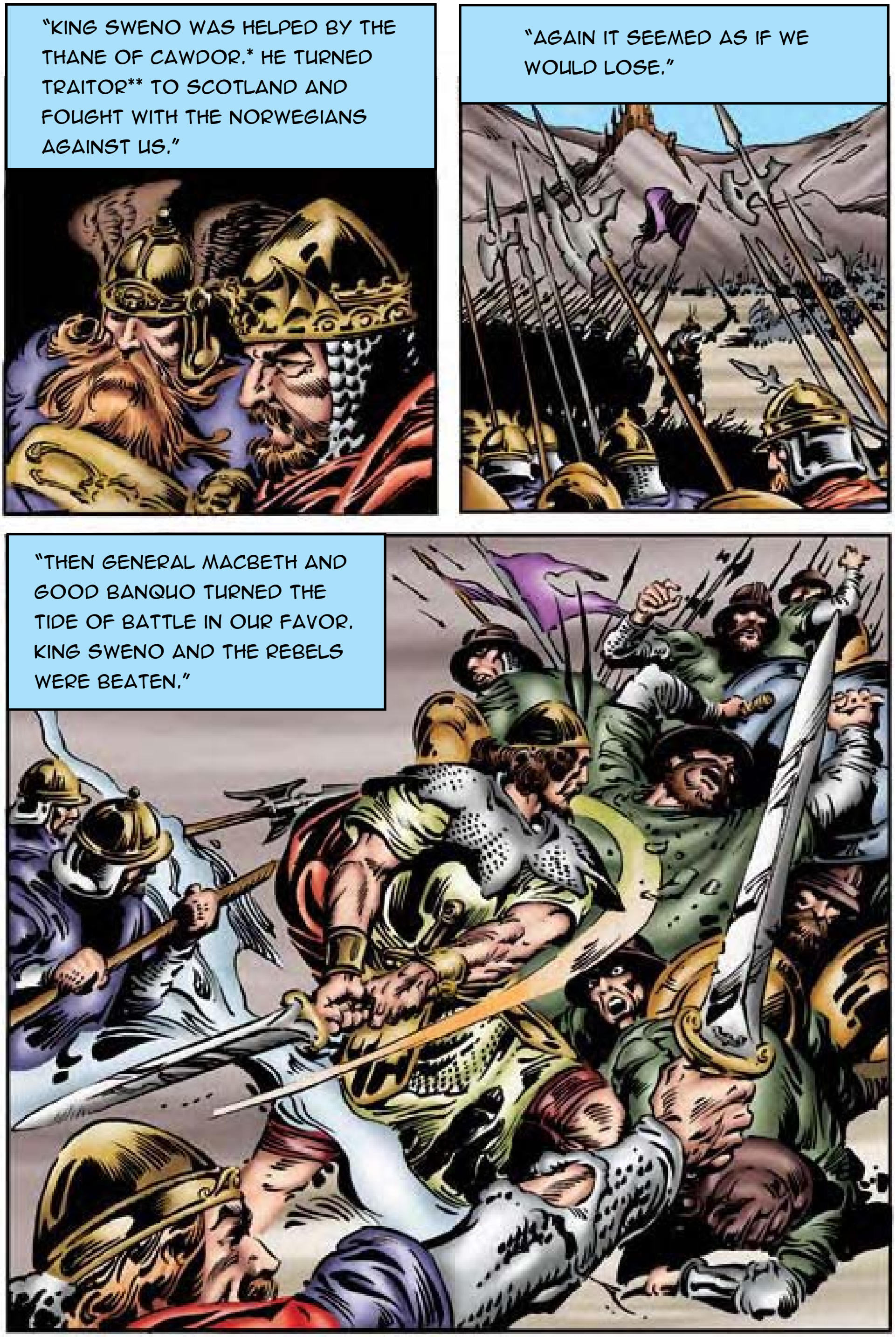

"Meanwhile, King Sweno of Norway arrived with more soldiers."


"General Macbeth and Banquo marched ahead of their army to meet the new charge."





* injuries, cuts and gashes received while fighting
** anxious, looking forward to



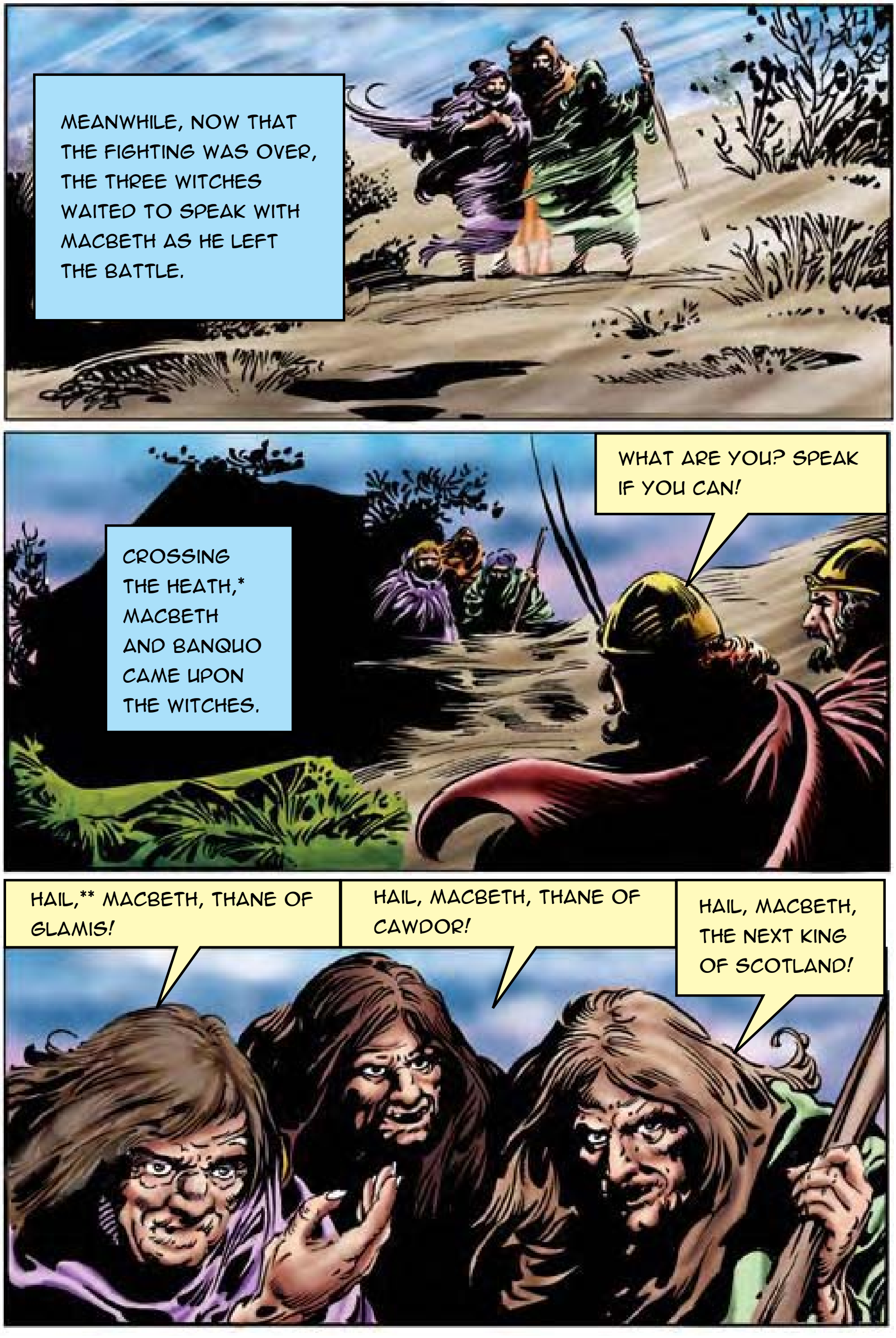
* a Scottish title given to a trusted nobleman

** a person who joins forces with an enemy to fight against his own country



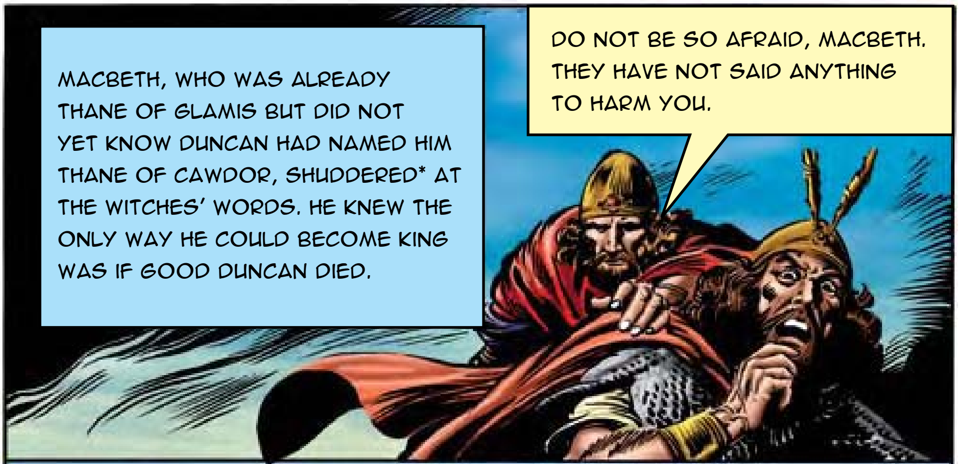
* a paper signed to end a war

** killed according to the law



* a stretch of marsh land covered with grass and low bushes

** a greeting

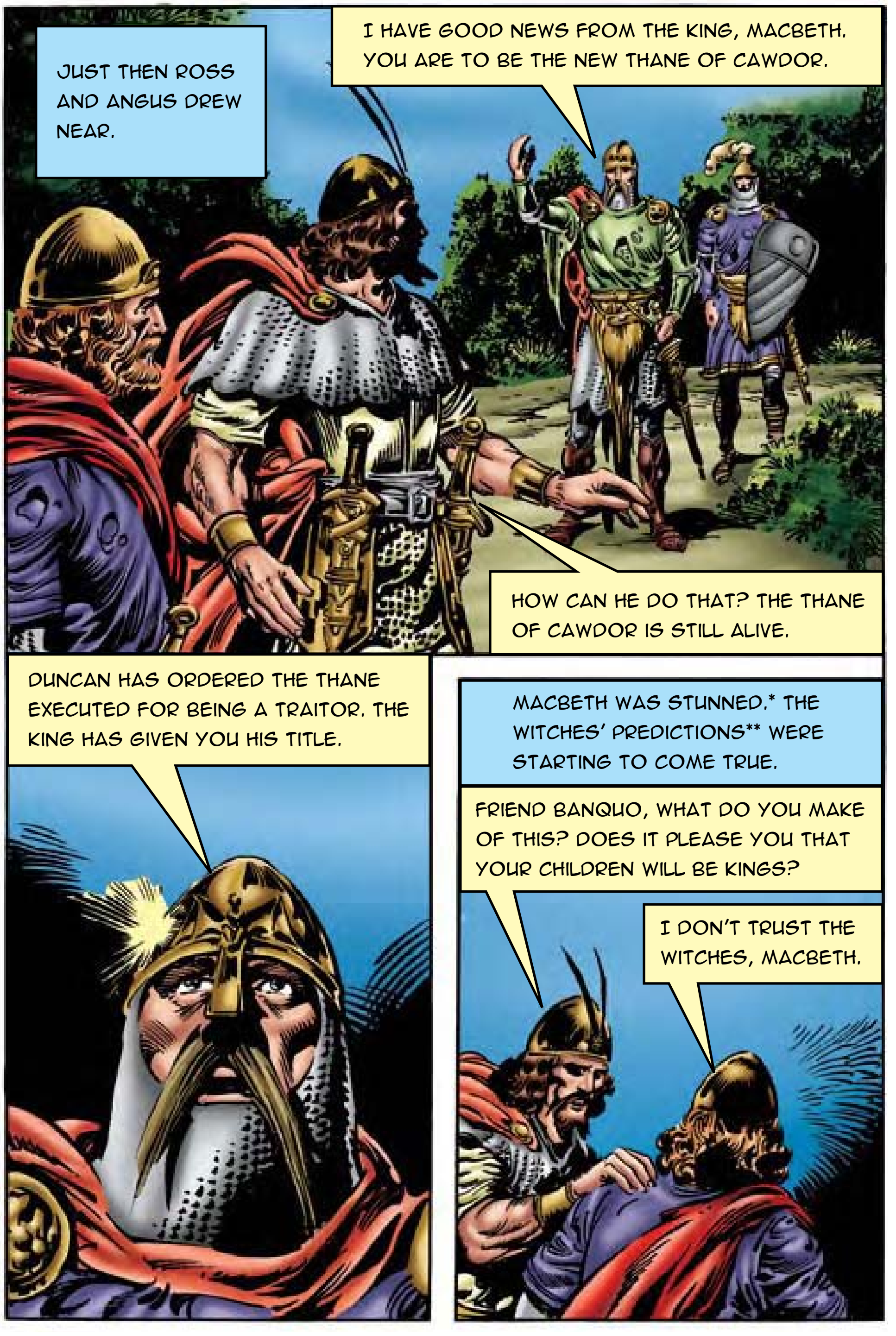






* trembled, shook

** disappeared, went away



* shocked, very surprised

** statements of future happenings


SOMETIMES, TO GET US TO DO WHAT IS WRONG, EVIL PEOPLE WILL TELL US SUCH THINGS.
BUT ONE OF THEIR PRE-DICTIONS HAS ALREADY COME TRUE!
I THANK YOU, ROSS AND ANGUS, FOR TELLING ME OF THIS. NOW LET US GO TO THE KING.
THINK ABOUT WHAT THE WITCHES HAVE SAID. WE WILL TALK ABOUT IT.

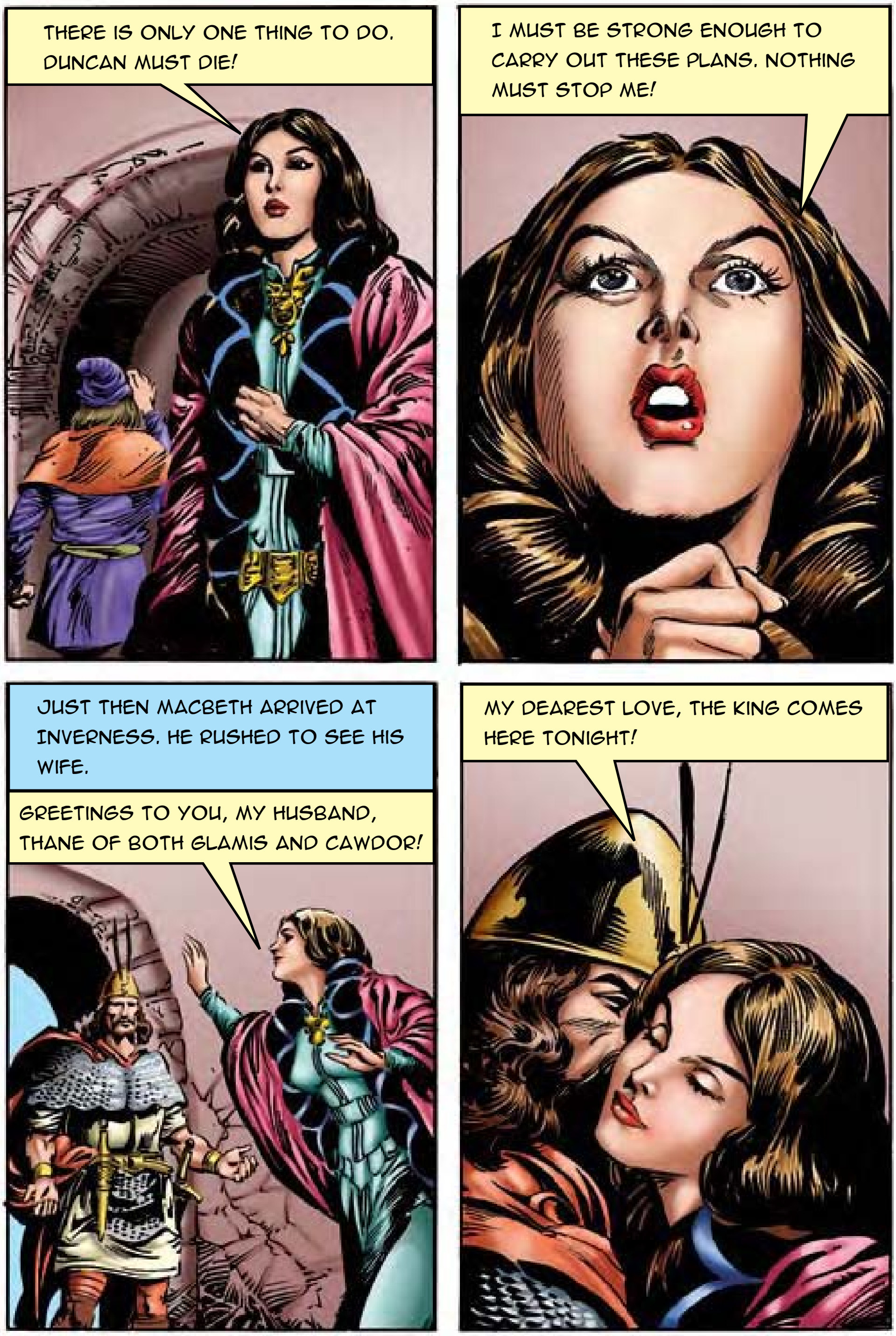


* admitting

** the act of being a traitor

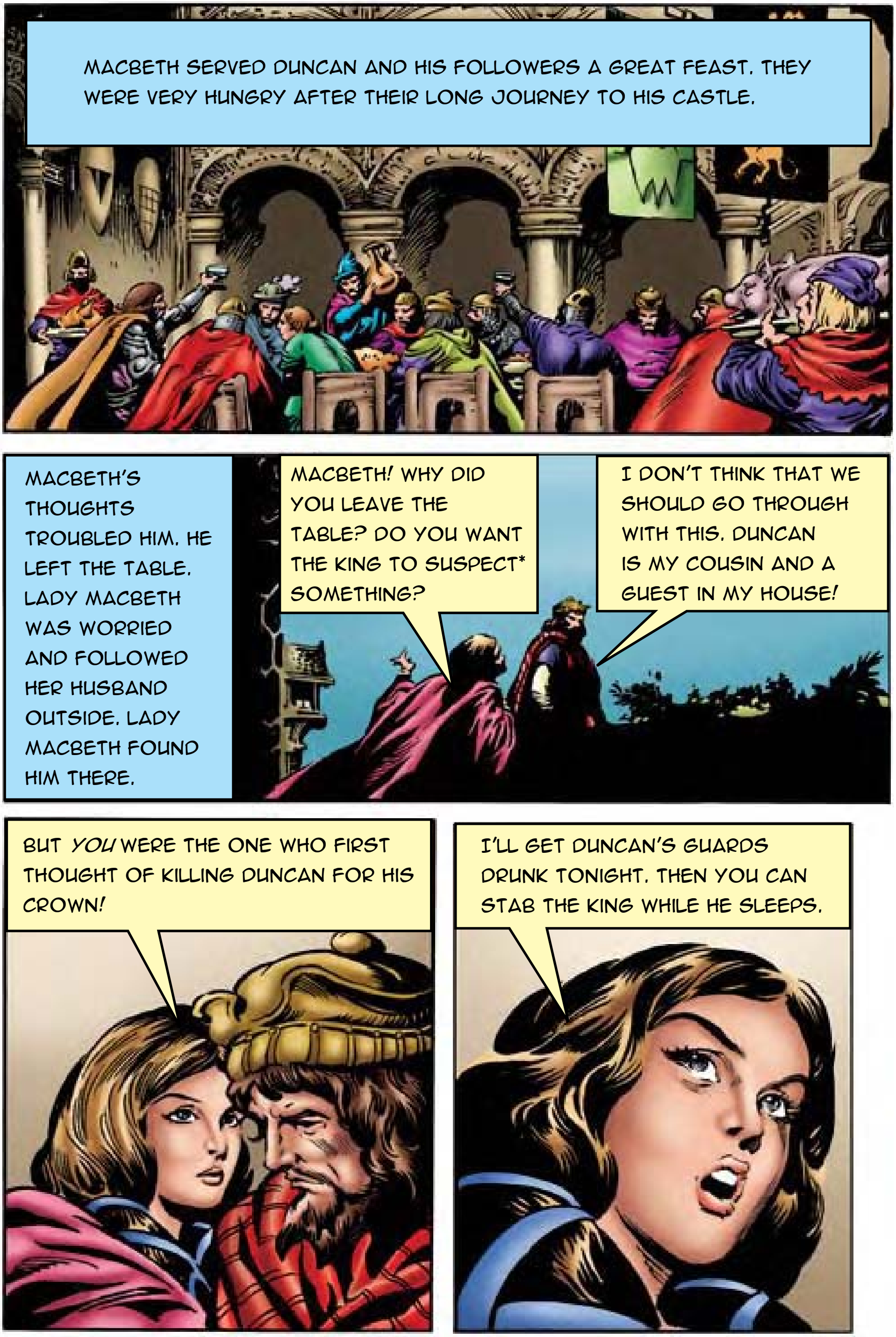

I MUST HONOR YOU PROPERLY, MACBETH. WE WILL ALL GO TO VISIT YOUR CASTLE AT INVERNESS.
I AM GRATEFUL. I WILL GO AT ONCE TO TELL MY WIFE.
I MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE PRINCE OF CUMBERLAND. HOW CAN I BE THE NEXT KING WHEN YOUNG MALCOLM STANDS IN MY WAY?
MEANWHILE, AT MACBETH'S CASTLE, LADY MACBETH READ A LETTER FROM HER HUSBAND.
MACBETH SAYS THAT THREE WITCHES PREDICTED HE WOULD BE THE THANE OF CAWDOR. . . AND THIS HAS COME TRUE!


THEY ALSO SAID HE WOULD BE KING. BUT I KNOW MY HUSBAND. HE WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG—EVEN TO WIN A CROWN!
SUDDENLY A MESSENGER ARRIVED WITH EXCITING NEWS.
MY LADY, KING DUNCAN IS ON HIS WAY TO INVERNESS!
THAT COULD NOT BE! MACBETH WOULD HAVE TOLD ME ABOUT IT!
NO, MY LADY. HE SENT A MESSENGER AHEAD, AND HE RIDES TO THE CASTLE EVEN NOW.
MY HUSBAND WILL ARRIVE SOON. AND AFTER THAT—KING DUNCAN!


THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO. DUNCAN MUST DIE!
I MUST BE STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY OUT THESE PLANS. NOTHING MUST STOP ME!
JUST THEN MACBETH ARRIVED AT INVERNESS. HE RUSHED TO SEE HIS WIFE.
GREETINGS TO YOU, MY HUSBAND, THANE OF BOTH GLAMIS AND CAWDOR!
MY DEAREST LOVE, THE KING COMES HERE TONIGHT!


AND WHEN DOES HE PLAN TO LEAVE?
TOMORROW.
THEN HE MUST NEVER SEE TOMORROW! MEANWHILE, MY HUSBAND, PREPARE TO WELCOME HIM. LEAVE EVERYTHING *ELSE* TO ME.
DO NOT WORRY. TONIGHT YOU SHALL WIN THE THRONE OF SCOTLAND.
WE WILL TALK MORE ABOUT THIS LATER.


SOON AFTERWARD, KING DUNCAN AND HIS MEN MADE THEIR WAY TO INVERNESS.
I LIKE THIS CASTLE. THE AIR IS SWEET AND GENTLE.
AH, IT IS LADY MACBETH. BUT WHERE IS YOUR NOBLE HUSBAND?
HE IS WAITING INSIDE, SIR.
THEN LET US GO TO MEET HIM.



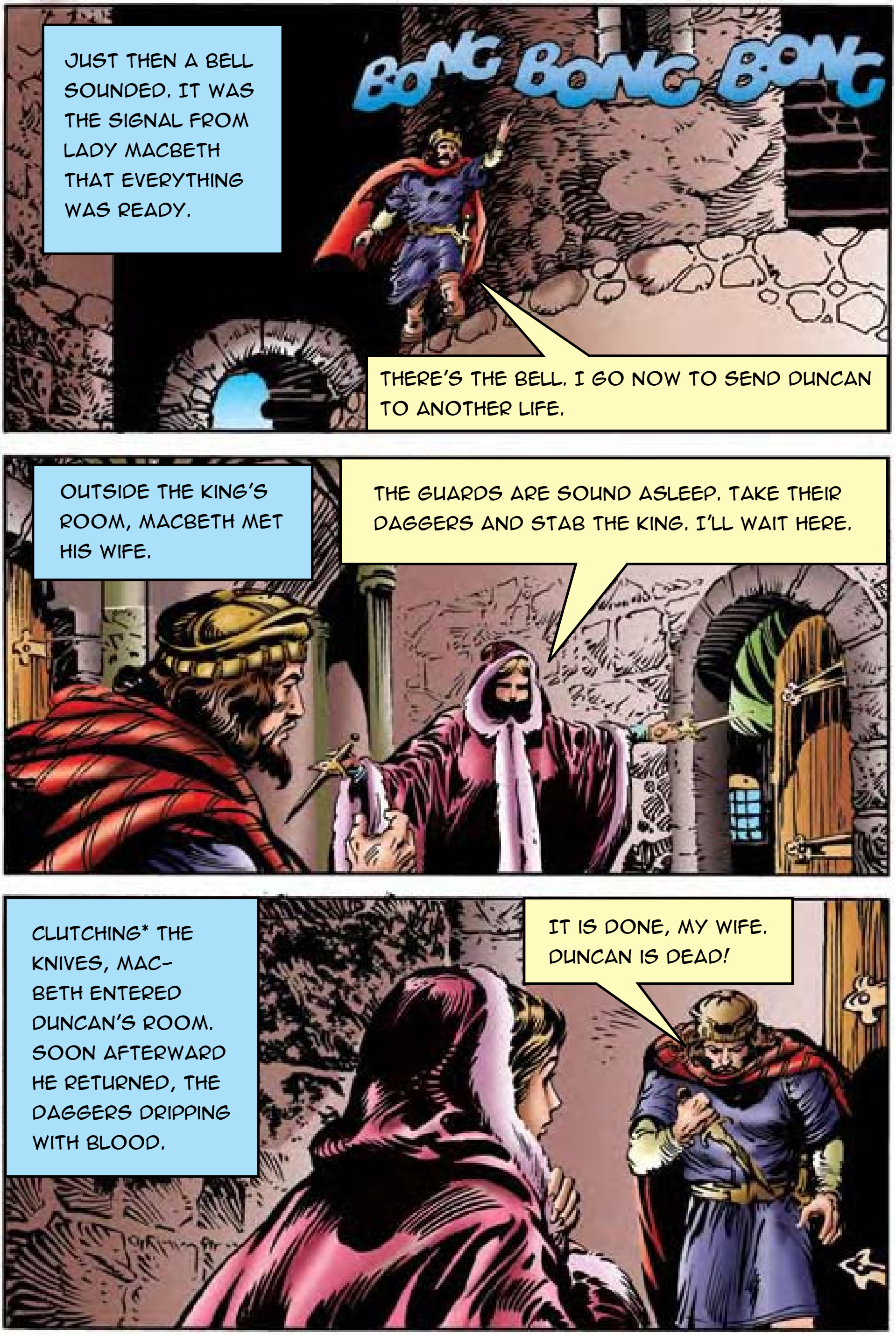
* begin to believe that something is wrong


LATER, AFTER THE FEAST, BANQUO'S SON FLEANCE WALKED IN THE CASTLE COURTYARD.
IT IS A DARK NIGHT, FATHER. WHY DON'T YOU GO TO BED?
I CANNOT, FLEANCE. MY SLEEP IS BOTHERED BY BAD DREAMS.
SUDDENLY BANQUO HEARD THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS, AND HE DREW HIS SWORD.
WHO'S THERE?
A FRIEND.
MACBETH! YOU'RE NOT IN BED YET? I DON'T SLEEP WELL, EITHER. I DREAMED OF THE THREE WITCHES LAST NIGHT.
I DON'T THINK ABOUT THEM MUCH. BUT YOU AND I MUST TALK ABOUT THEM LATER.
ANY TIME, MACBETH. GOODNIGHT.



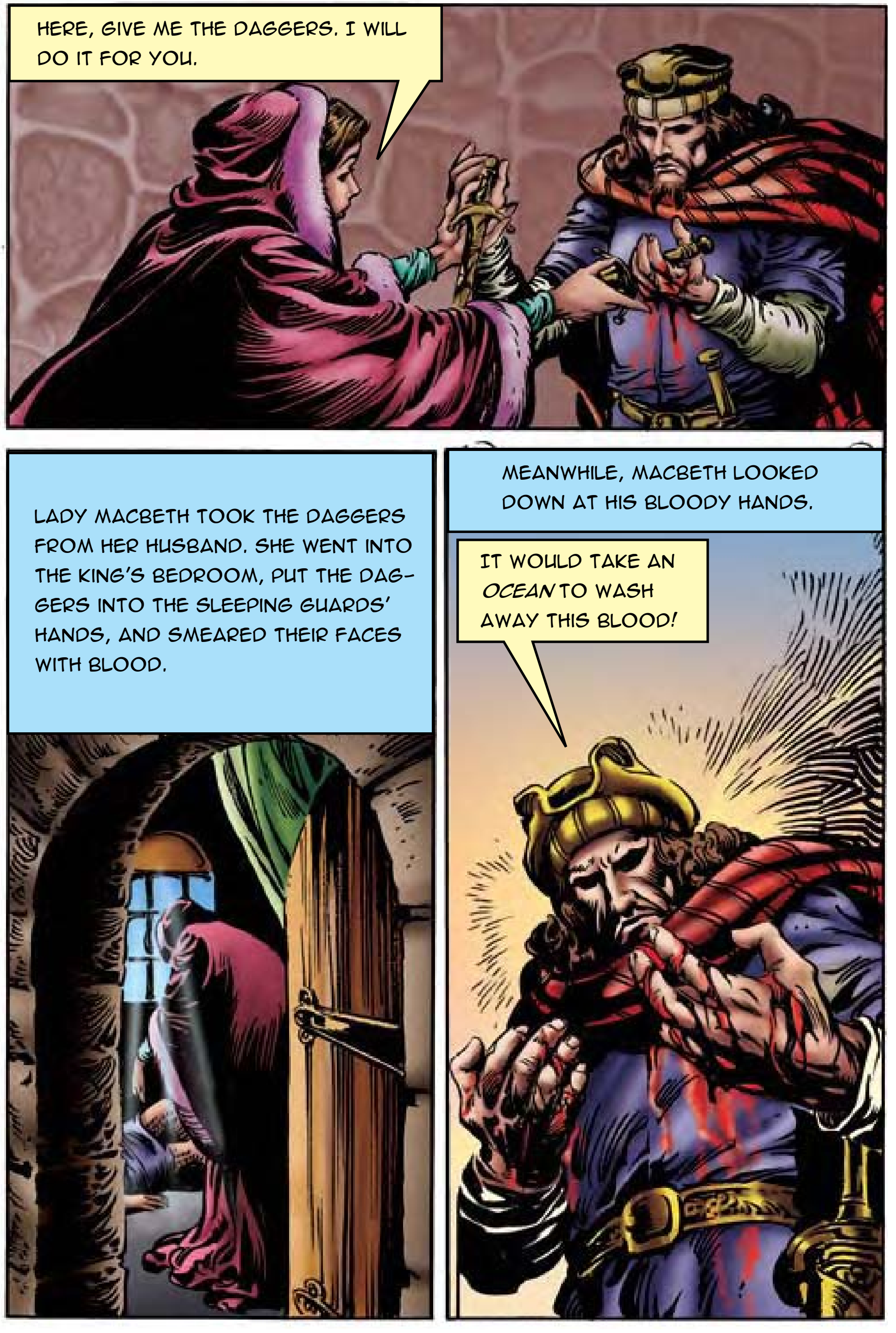
* something which seems to appear, but which does not really exist

** a sharp knife



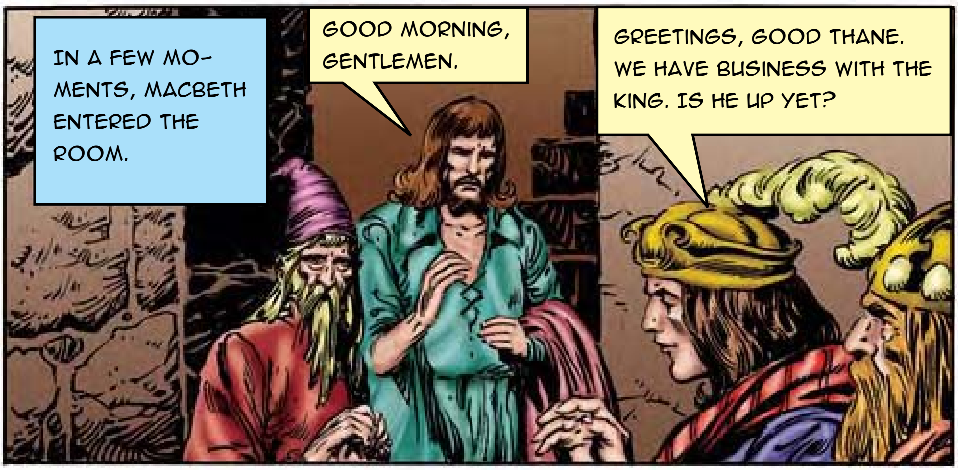
* holding tightly


BUT WHO SLEEPS IN THE ROOM NEXT TO THE KING'S?
HIS SON DONALBAIN. WHY DO YOU ASK?
"AS I STABBED DUNCAN, A VOICE CRIED OUT TO ME. . ."
MACBETH SHALL SLEEP NO MORE!
WELL, I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING. YOU MUST GO BACK AND LEAVE THE BLOODY KNIVES INSIDE.
NO! I DARE NOT LOOK AT DUNCAN'S DEAD BODY AGAIN! I'M AFRAID TO THINK ABOUT WHAT I HAVE DONE!


HERE, GIVE ME THE DAGGERS. I WILL DO IT FOR YOU.
LADY MACBETH TOOK THE DAGGERS FROM HER HUSBAND. SHE WENT INTO THE KING'S BEDROOM, PUT THE DAGGERS INTO THE SLEEPING GUARDS' HANDS, AND SMEARED THEIR FACES WITH BLOOD.
MEANWHILE, MACBETH LOOKED DOWN AT HIS BLOODY HANDS.
IT WOULD TAKE AN *OCEAN* TO WASH AWAY THIS BLOOD!



* a servant who guards the gates and doors to his master's house

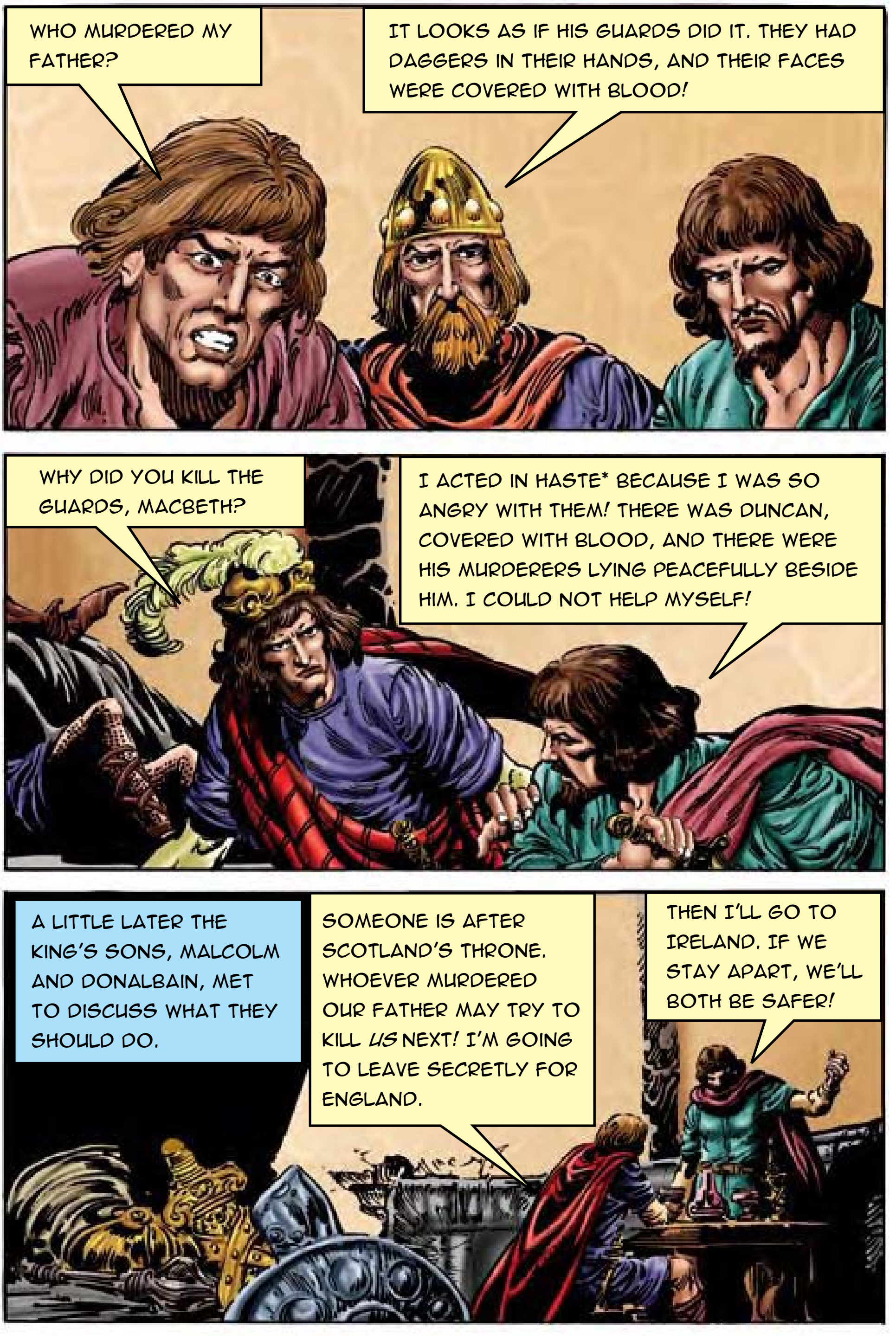

IN A FEW MO-
MENTS, MACBETH
ENTERED THE
ROOM.
GOOD MORNING, GENTLEMEN.
GREETINGS, GOOD THANE. WE HAVE BUSINESS WITH THE KING. IS HE UP YET?


WHY, NO. BUT HIS ROOM IS JUST DOWN THE HALL. I'LL BRING YOU TO HIM.
DO NOT TROUBLE YOURSELF, MACBETH. *I'LL* WAKE HIM UP.

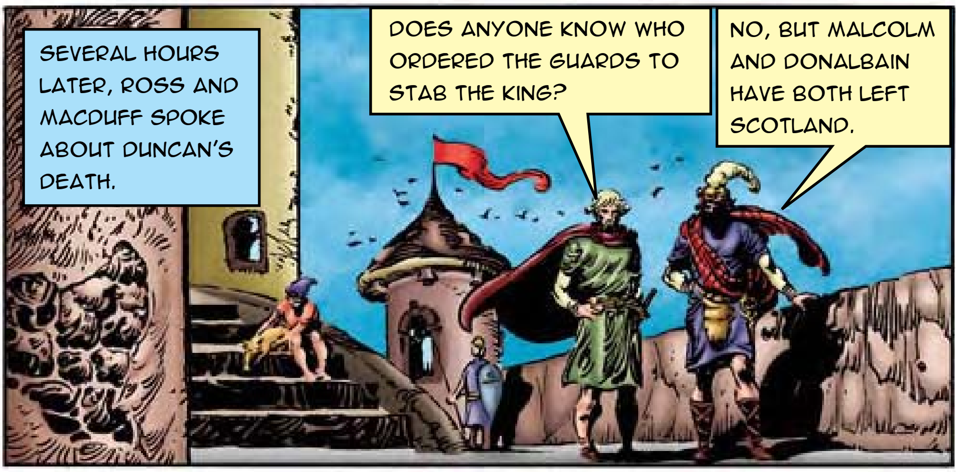

MACDUFF KNOCKED AND THEN OPENED KING DUNCAN'S DOOR. A LOOK OF TERROR* WAS ON HIS FACE AND HE CRIED OUT IN ALARM.
MURDER! TREASON! MURDER!

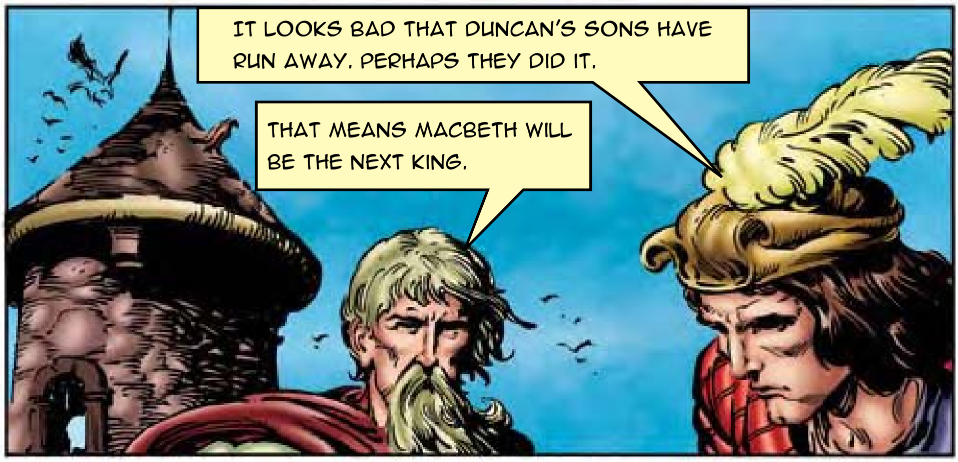
* fright, fear


MACDUFF'S LOUD SHOUTS WOKE EVERYONE IN THE CASTLE.
WHAT A TERRIBLE THING! KING DUNCAN IS DEAD!
WHAT? IN OUR *OUR* HOUSE? I AM GOING TO FAINT!


WHO MURDERED MY FATHER?
IT LOOKS AS IF HIS GUARDS DID IT. THEY HAD DAGGERS IN THEIR HANDS, AND THEIR FACES WERE COVERED WITH BLOOD!
WHY DID YOU KILL THE GUARDS, MACBETH?
I ACTED IN HASTE* BECAUSE I WAS SO ANGRY WITH THEM! THERE WAS DUNCAN, COVERED WITH BLOOD, AND THERE WERE HIS MURDERERS LYING PEACEFULLY BESIDE HIM. I COULD NOT HELP MYSELF!
A LITTLE LATER THE KING'S SONS, MALCOLM AND DONALBAIN, MET TO DISCUSS WHAT THEY SHOULD DO.
SOMEONE IS AFTER SCOTLAND'S THRONE. WHOEVER MURDERED OUR FATHER MAY TRY TO KILL US NEXT! I'M GOING TO LEAVE SECRETLY FOR ENGLAND.
THEN I'LL GO TO IRELAND. IF WE STAY APART, WE'LL BOTH BE SAFER!

* too quickly

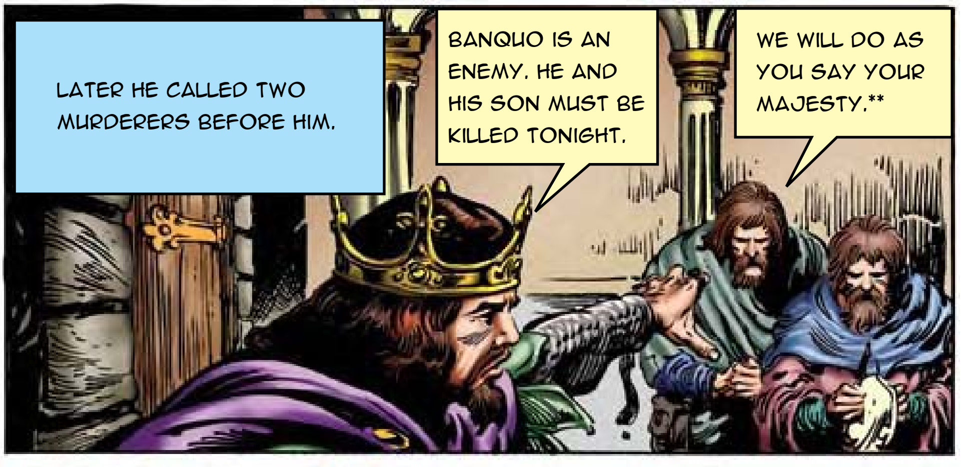

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, ROSS AND MACDUFF SPOKE ABOUT DUNCAN'S DEATH.
DOES ANYONE KNOW WHO ORDERED THE GUARDS TO STAB THE KING?
NO, BUT MALCOLM AND DONALBAIN HAVE BOTH LEFT SCOTLAND.


IT LOOKS BAD THAT DUNCAN'S SONS HAVE RUN AWAY. PERHAPS THEY DID IT.
THAT MEANS MACBETH WILL BE THE NEXT KING.


WILL YOU GO TO SCONE TO SEE HIM CROWNED?
NO, I DON'T FEEL RIGHT ABOUT IT. I AM GOING HOME TO CASTLE FIFE. FAREWELL.


NOT LONG AFTERWARD, MACBETH BECAME KING OF SCOTLAND. HE DECIDED TO HOLD A GREAT FEAST TO CELEBRATE. MANY NOBLES WERE INVITED TO THE ROYAL PALACE AT FORRES.
BANQUO WAITED FOR MACBETH INSIDE THE PALACE.
MACBETH HAS GAINED EVERYTHING THE WITCHES SAID HE WOULD. BUT I FEAR IT WAS HE WHO KILLED DUNCAN TO TAKE THE CROWN.
TRUMPETS SOUNDED, AND KING MACBETH ENTERED WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF HIS ROYAL COURT.
BANQUO, MY FRIEND, WE FEAST TONIGHT. WILL YOU JOIN US?
YES, SIR. BUT I PROMISED MY SON FLEANCE THAT WE WOULD GO HORSEBACK RIDING THIS AFTERNOON. WE WILL RETURN IN THE EVENING.





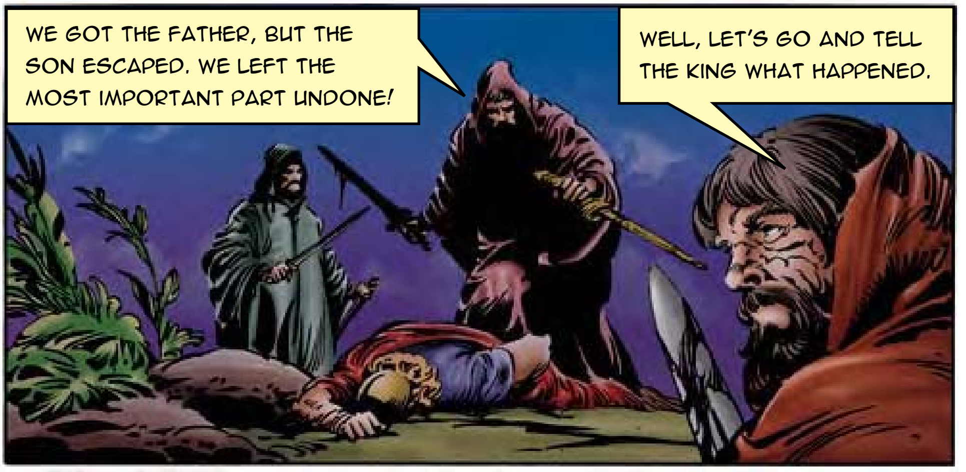


* a warning of some future evil

** a title given to a king


LATER THAT EVENING, THE KILLERS WAITED FOR BANQUO AND HIS SON TO RETURN FROM THEIR RIDE. A THIRD MAN HAD JOINED THEM AT MACBETH'S ORDERS.
I SEE A LIGHT. THEY ARE COMING!


THE MURDERERS STRUCK AT BANQUO WITH THEIR SWORDS, BUT YOUNG FLEANCE WAS TOO FAST FOR THEM.
I'M BEING ATTACKED! GET AWAY WHILE YOU CAN, MY SON!


WE GOT THE FATHER, BUT THE SON ESCAPED. WE LEFT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART UNDONE!
WELL, LET'S GO AND TELL THE KING WHAT HAPPENED.

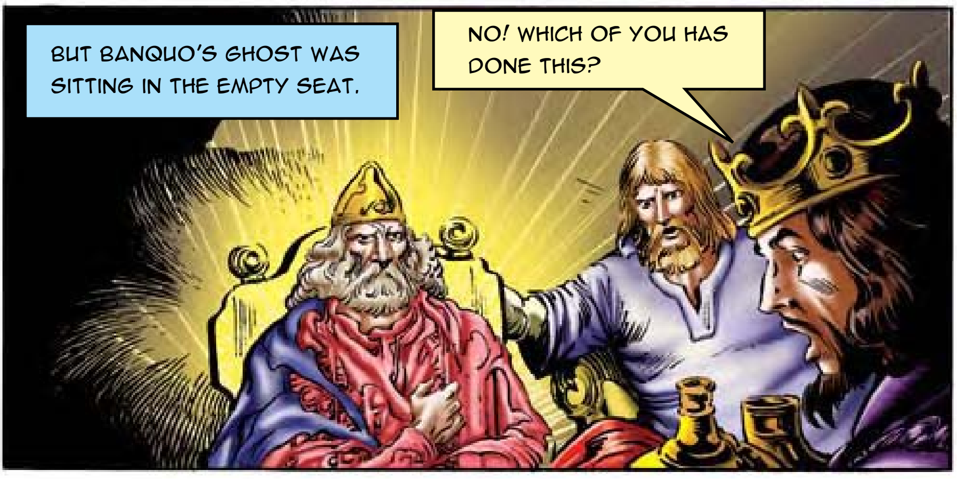

MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY, MACBETH'S FEAST HAD BEGUN.
YOU ARE ALL WELCOME HERE! PLEASE FIND A PLACE TO SIT AT THE TABLE.


THE QUEEN WILL JOIN US A LITTLE LATER.


AS THE FEASTING STARTED, MACBETH SAW ONE OF THE KILLERS IN THE DOORWAY.
THERE IS BLOOD ON YOUR FACE!
IT IS BANQUO'S BLOOD! HE IS DEAD IN A DITCH WITH TWENTY GASHES IN HIS HEAD!
AND WHAT OF FLEANCE?
I AM SORRY TO REPORT THAT THE BOY HAS ESCAPED.
WELL, THE MAIN JOB IS DONE. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF FLEANCE ANOTHER TIME. FOR NOW, YOU MAY LEAVE.


MACBETH WENT BACK TO THE FEAST. BUT HE COULD NOT FIND A CHAIR TO SIT IN.
WHERE CAN I SIT? ALL THE CHAIRS ARE TAKEN.


WHY, RIGHT HERE, YOUR MAJESTY.


BUT BANQUO'S GHOST WAS SITTING IN THE EMPTY SEAT.
NO! WHICH OF YOU HAS DONE THIS?


YOU CANNOT SAY I DID IT! DON'T SHAKE YOUR BLOODY HEAD AT ME!

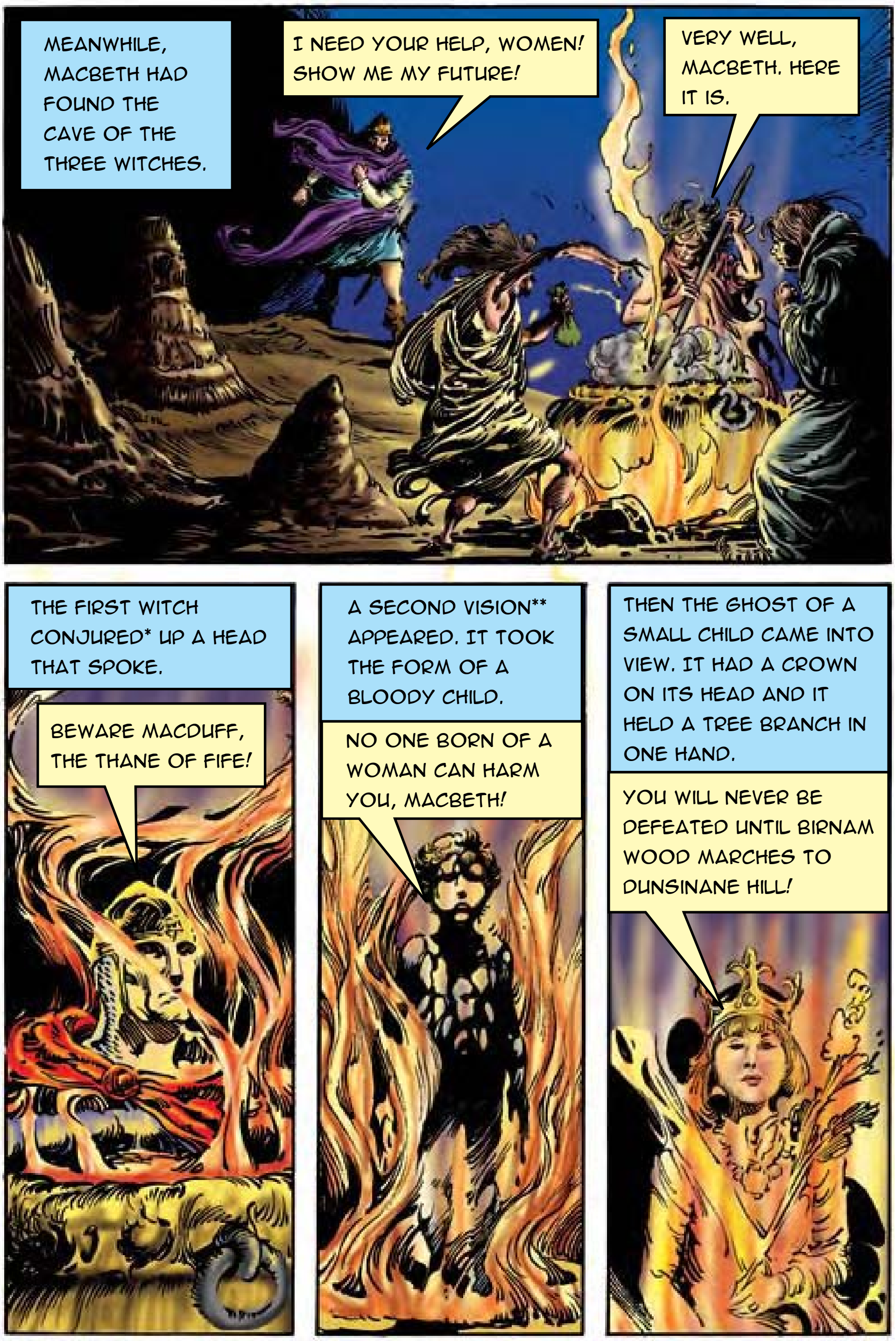

THE KING IS NOT WELL. PERHAPS WE SHOULD GO.
THAT MAY BE BEST. MACBETH IS HAVING A FIT. HE HAS HAD THIS SICKNESS SINCE HE WAS A CHILD.


I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM. PLEASE GENTLEMEN, LEAVE AT ONCE!



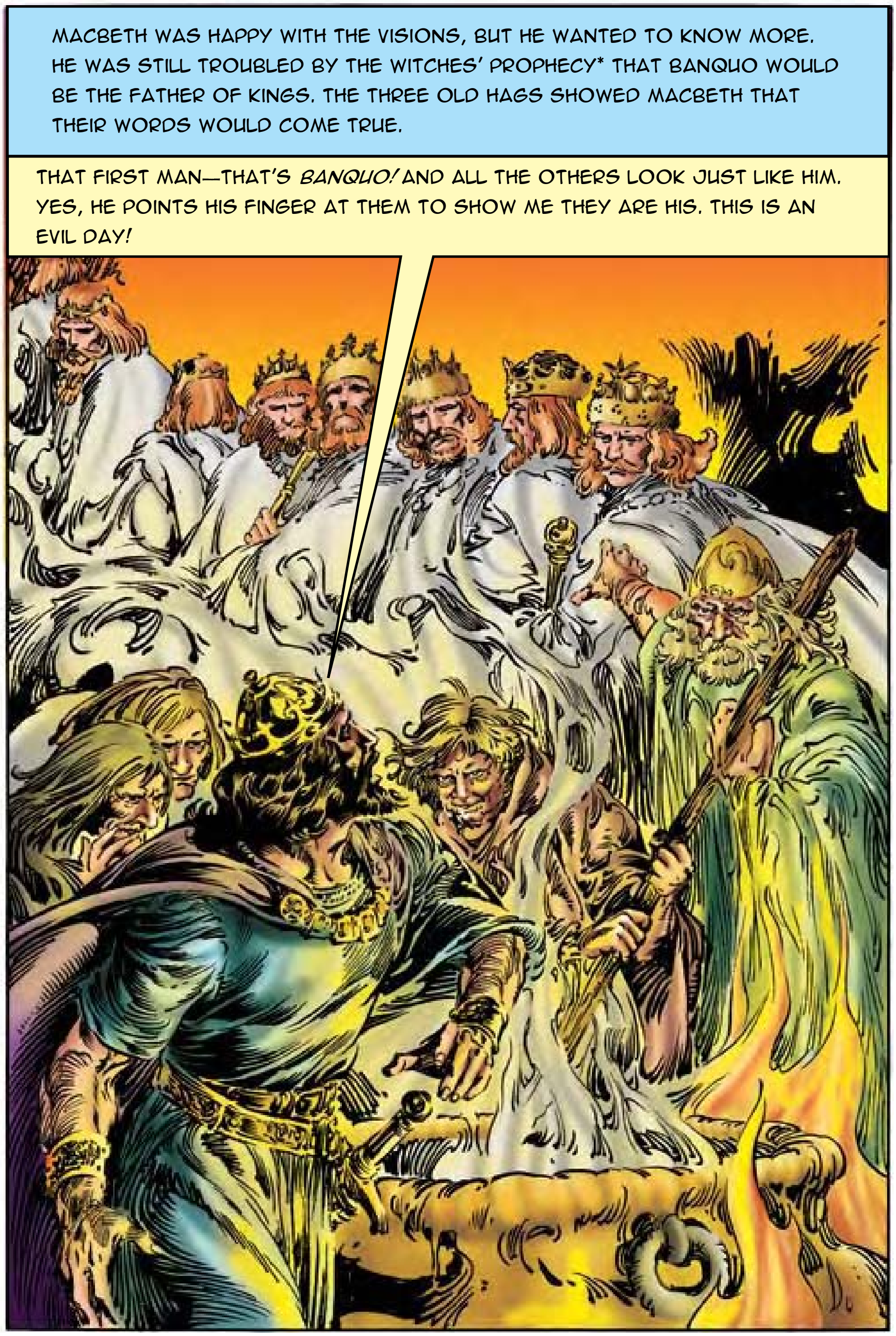
* not long ago

** win a battle against someone and take his place



* called up by magic

** a picture or object that exists only in the mind of the one who sees it

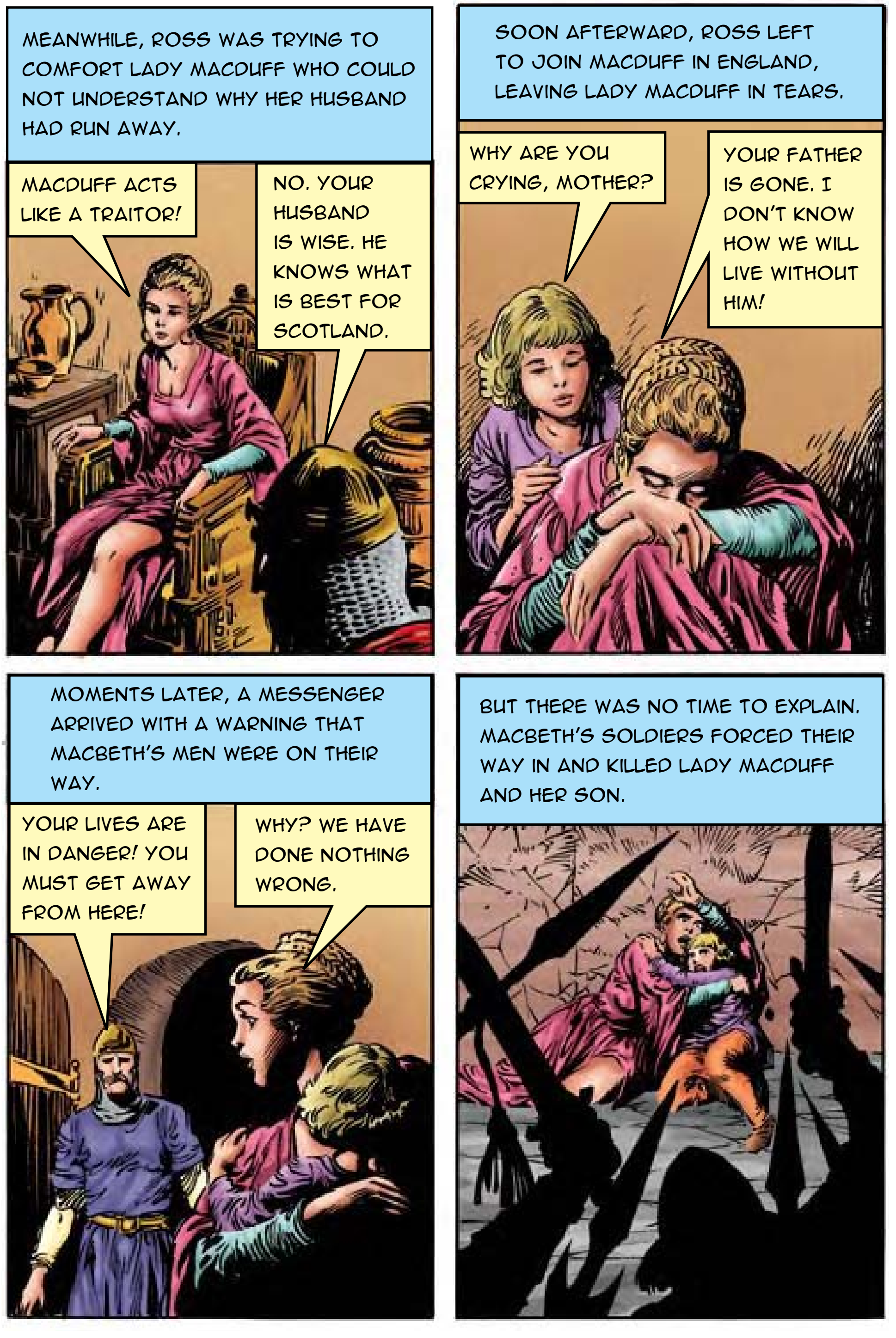


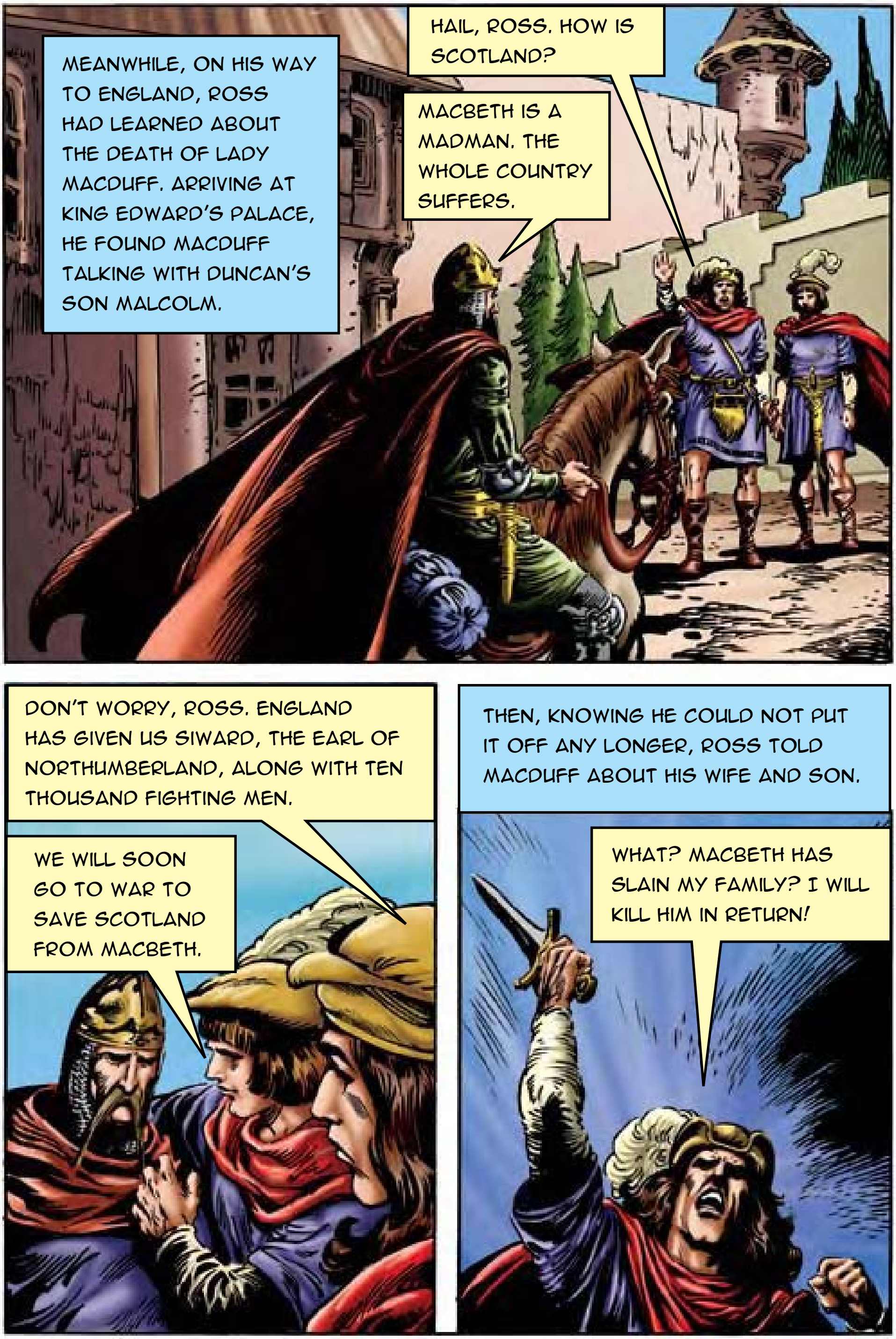
* telling what will happen in the future


WHY DOES MACBETH LOOK ANGRY? WE'VE DONE OUR BEST TO CHEER HIM UP!


AS THE WITCHES DISAPPEARED, LENNOX CAME INTO THE CAVE LOOKING FOR MACBETH.
THE THREE WITCHES ARE GONE, LENNOX. DID YOU SEE WHERE THEY WENT?
NO, SIR. BUT I HAVE NEWS FOR YOU ABOUT THANE MACDUFF. HE HAS FLED TO ENGLAND!


I MUST ACT QUICKLY TO PUNISH HIM! I WILL SEND SOLDIERS TO HIS CASTLE TO MURDER HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.


MEANWHILE, ROSS WAS TRYING TO COMFORT LADY MACDUFF WHO COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HER HUSBAND HAD RUN AWAY.
MACDUFF ACTS LIKE A TRAITOR!
NO. YOUR HUSBAND IS WISE. HE KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR SCOTLAND.
SOON AFTERWARD, ROSS LEFT TO JOIN MACDUFF IN ENGLAND, LEAVING LADY MACDUFF IN TEARS.
WHY ARE YOU CRYING, MOTHER?
YOUR FATHER IS GONE. I DON'T KNOW HOW WE WILL LIVE WITHOUT HIM!
MOMENTS LATER, A MESSENGER ARRIVED WITH A WARNING THAT MACBETH'S MEN WERE ON THEIR WAY.
YOUR LIVES ARE IN DANGER! YOU MUST GET AWAY FROM HERE!
WHY? WE HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG.
BUT THERE WAS NO TIME TO EXPLAIN. MACBETH'S SOLDIERS FORCED THEIR WAY IN AND KILLED LADY MACDUFF AND HER SON.


MEANWHILE, ON HIS WAY TO ENGLAND, ROSS HAD LEARNED ABOUT THE DEATH OF LADY MACDUFF. ARRIVING AT KING EDWARD'S PALACE, HE FOUND MACDUFF TALKING WITH DUNCAN'S SON MALCOLM.
HAIL, ROSS. HOW IS SCOTLAND?
MACBETH IS A MADMAN. THE WHOLE COUNTRY SUFFERS.
DON'T WORRY, ROSS. ENGLAND HAS GIVEN US SIWARD, THE EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND, ALONG WITH TEN THOUSAND FIGHTING MEN.
WE WILL SOON GO TO WAR TO SAVE SCOTLAND FROM MACBETH.
THEN, KNOWING HE COULD NOT PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER, ROSS TOLD MACDUFF ABOUT HIS WIFE AND SON.
WHAT? MACBETH HAS SLAIN MY FAMILY? I WILL KILL HIM IN RETURN!

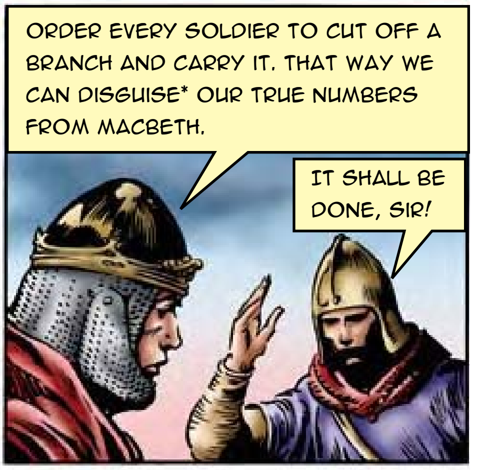

MEANWHILE, BACK IN SCOTLAND, ONE OF LADY MACBETH'S SERVANTS CALLED A DOCTOR.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME LADY MACBETH WALKED IN HER SLEEP?
SHE HAS WALKED EVERY NIGHT SINCE MACBETH LEFT THE CASTLE TO PREPARE FOR WAR. LOOK! THERE SHE IS AGAIN!
LADY MACBETH WAS WALKING IN HER SLEEP WITH HER EYES WIDE OPEN. AS THE DOCTOR AND THE SERVANT WATCHED, SHE RUBBED HER HANDS TOGETHER AS IF SHE WERE WASHING THEM—OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
WILL THESE HANDS *NEVER* BE CLEAN? WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE OLD MAN HAD SO MUCH BLOOD IN HIM?
SHE WILL SOON GO BACK TO BED. CAN YOU HELP HER, DOCTOR?
NO, I CAN DO NOTHING. BUT KEEP AN EYE ON HER. SHE MIGHT TRY TO HURT HERSELF!



* turned against


BACK AT DUNSINANE CASTLE, MACBETH WAS NOT WORRIED. HE BELIEVED THAT THE WITCHES' PROPHECY WOULD KEEP HIM SAFE.
BIRNAM WOOD CANNOT WALK. AND NO MAN BORN OF A WOMAN CAN HARM ME. I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR—NOT EVEN MACDUFF!
SUDDENLY A MESSENGER APPEARED WITH A REPORT.
SIR, THERE ARE TEN THOUSAND TROOPS MARCHING THIS WAY!
I AM NOT AFRAID OF THEM. GET OUT OF HERE!
WISELY, HOWEVER, MACBETH DECIDED TO DRESS FOR BATTLE.
HELP ME WITH MY ARMOR, SEYTON. IT IS EARLY YET, BUT I WISH TO BE READY ONCE THE FIGHTING STARTS.
YES, SIR.





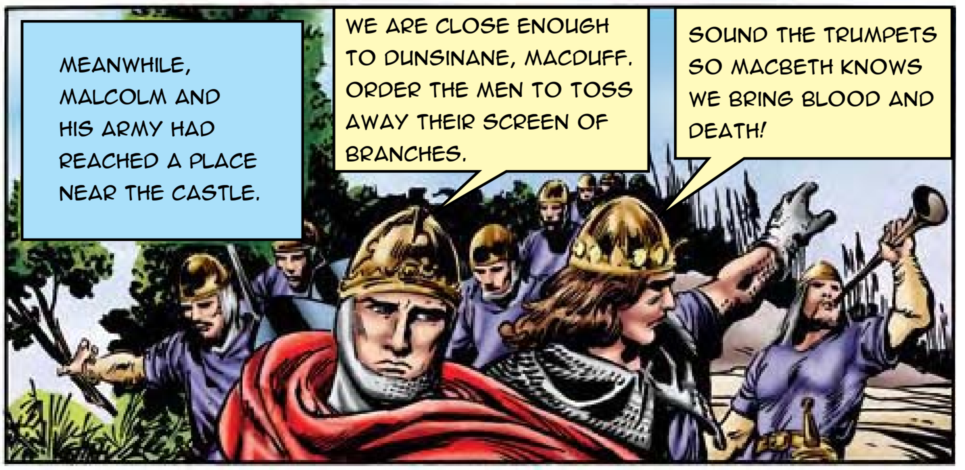


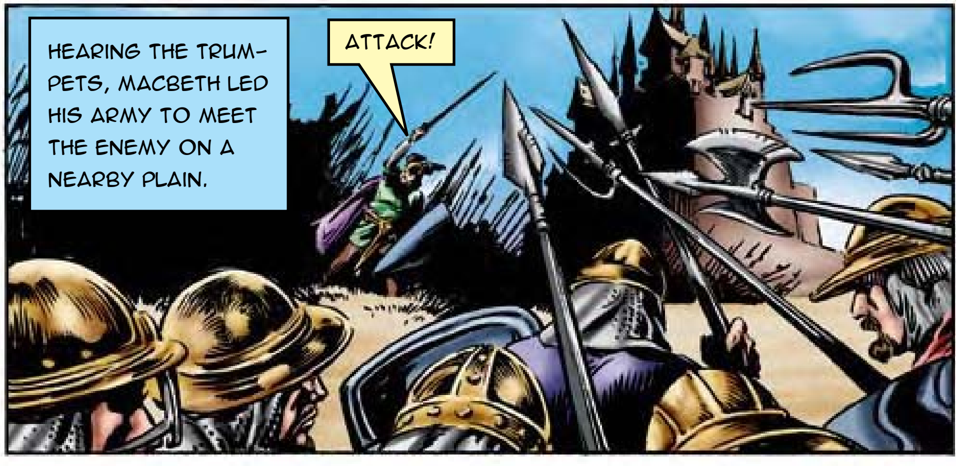
* hide by taking on another appearance



* cry, feel bad about something


YOU'RE LYING!
NO, SIR. YOU CAN SEE IT FOR YOURSELF!
AT THIS, MACBETH REMEMBERED THE WITCHES' PREDICTION.
THE WITCHES SAID I HAD NOTHING TO FEAR UNTIL BIRNAM WOOD COMES TO DUNSINANE. AND NOW THE FOREST WALKS THIS WAY!
MACBETH CALLED EVERYONE IN HIS CASTLE TO BATTLE.
GET YOUR WEAPONS! WE WILL MEET THE ENEMY OUTSIDE. IF WE MUST DIE, WE WILL DIE FIGHTING!



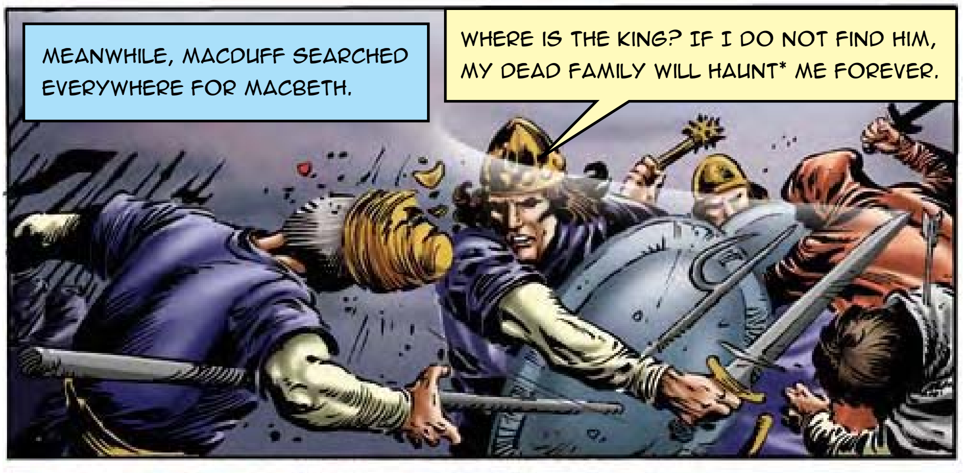


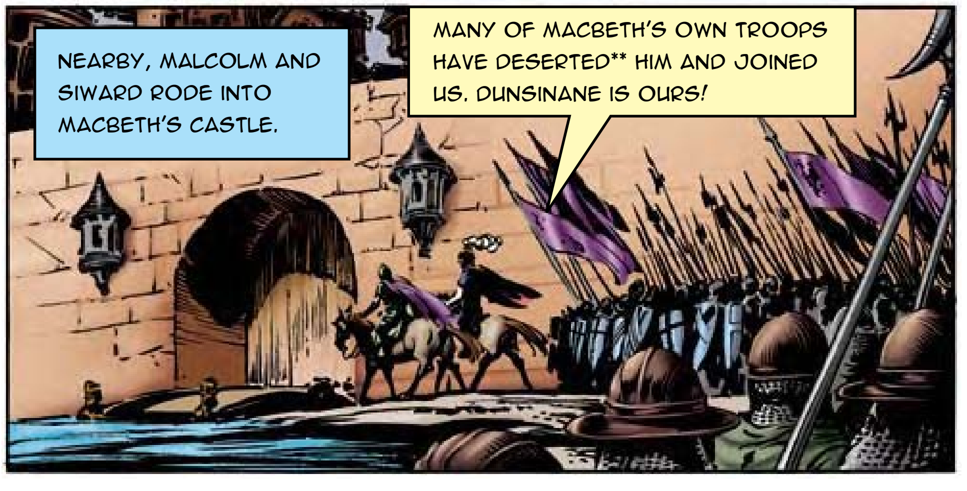


* dared

** shake with fear







* in this sense, to make someone ashamed for not getting revenge

** left, went over to the other side

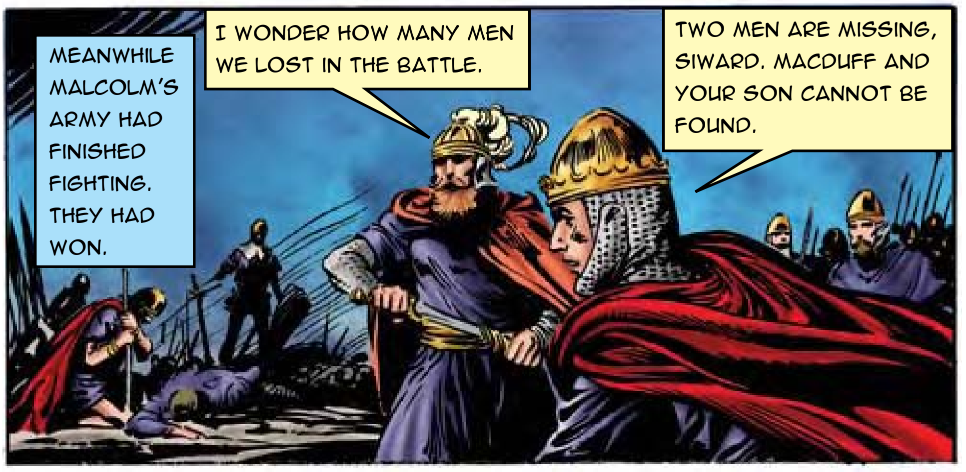


* protected by magic

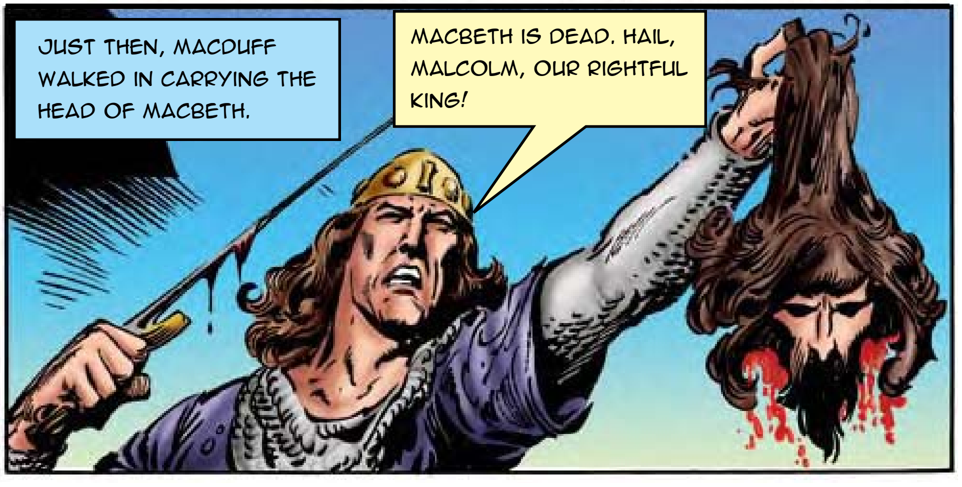

BUT I WILL NEVER GIVE UP!

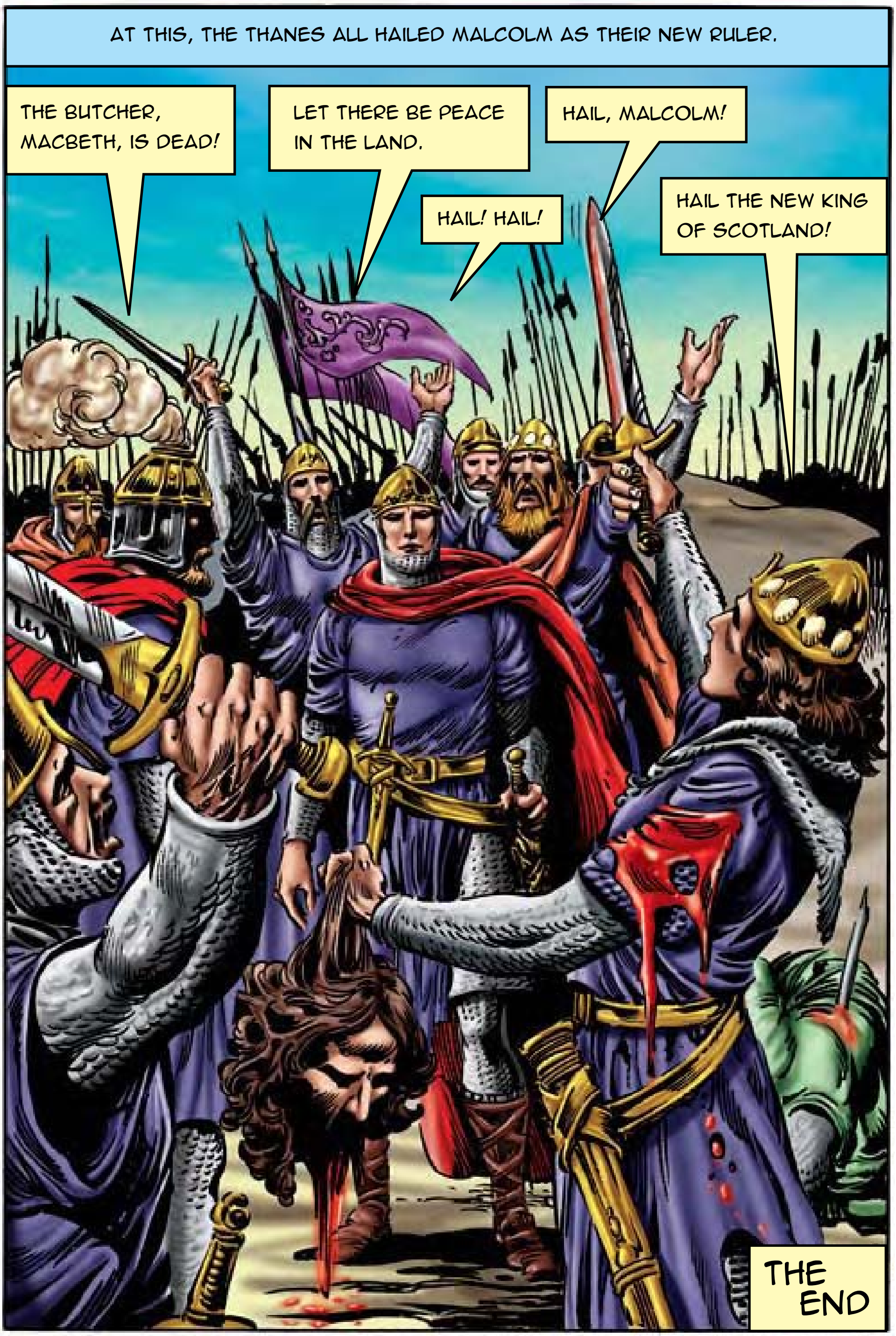

THEREFORE WE MUST FIGHT!


COME ON, MACDUFF. THE ONE WHO STOPS FIRST WILL BE THE LOSER!


MEANWHILE MALCOLM'S ARMY HAD FINISHED FIGHTING. THEY HAD WON.
I WONDER HOW MANY MEN WE LOST IN THE BATTLE.
TWO MEN ARE MISSING, SIWARD. MACDUFF AND YOUR SON CANNOT BE FOUND.


I KNOW ABOUT ONE OF THEM. I AM SORRY TO SAY YOUNG SIWARD HAS BEEN KILLED.
AT LEAST HE DIED LIKE A SOLDIER!


JUST THEN, MACDUFF WALKED IN CARRYING THE HEAD OF MACBETH.
MACBETH IS DEAD. HAIL, MALCOLM, OUR RIGHTFUL KING!


AT THIS, THE THANES ALL HAILED MALCOLM AS THEIR NEW RULER.
THE BUTCHER, MACBETH, IS DEAD!
LET THERE BE PEACE IN THE LAND.
HAIL! HAIL!
HAIL, MALCOLM!
HAIL THE NEW KING OF SCOTLAND!
THE END

Macbeth

After encountering three witches, the warrior Macbeth waits to see if their predictions come true. Stung by ambition, Macbeth is persuaded by his conniving wife that the fastest way to fulfill the prophecy is to murder the king, which sets off a disastrous chain of events. As the tragedy unfolds, Macbeth's decisions lead to more ruin. He returns to the witches and believes that his future is secure—but is he interpreting the premonitions correctly?

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